

NSC BRIEFING

13 October 1960

JAPAN

- I. aftermath of assassination 25X1
- of Japanese Socialist party chairman Inejiro Asanuma on 12 October show wide variety of reactions. Assassination at least will provide impetus for more violent Socialist attacks on the Ikeda government in the Diet session beginning on 17 October.
- A. Leftists will use incident as pretext for demonstrations that will probably continue into the campaign for the national election, tentatively scheduled for some time in November; popular emotional sympathy will aid the Socialists in generating support.
- II. The selection of a successor to Asanuma will undoubtedly lead to fierce infighting within the Socialist party between extreme leftist and more moderate elements. This will also result in review and reassessment of party's anti-American position.
- A. Too early to assess probable ultimate outcome of party maneuvering. Party is likely to choose interim leader for election campaign. Election results will strongly influence subsequent position.
- B. Asanuma was the symbol of the Socialists' anti-American, pro-Communist position.
- III. Peiping and Moscow have moved quickly to exploit the assassination; Moscow attributed the attack to Fascist thugs while Peiping said Asanuma was killed by a hired assassin; no further elaboration.
- A. Peiping already had decided on a hostile attitude toward Prime Minister Ikeda and to support leftist agitation for his ouster.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. (1)
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25X1

1. Communist Chinese charged Ikeda is as subservient to the US as previous Kishi government.
- B. Assassination will provide additional pretext for Peiping assistance to the leftists in the November election campaign.